

R E M A R K S

Claim for Priority Under 35 USC 119

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge applicants' claim for priority under 35 USC 119 and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Information Disclosure Statements

The Examiner is also respectfully requested to return a copy of the IDS Form PTO/SB/08A dated August 4, 2006 and to indicate thereon that all the cited publications were considered and made of record.

Drawings

The Examiner is respectfully requested to approve the originally filed drawings (Figs. 1 to 17, 8 sheets).

Restriction Requirement

Restriction was required under 35 USC 121 as follows:

Group I. Claims 1 to 3, 7, 10 to 13, 17 and 18, drawn to a method and apparatus for detecting a crater end of a continuously cast product by using shear wave

and longitudinal wave sensors to detect variations of an ultrasonic signal and calibrate a calculation formula to determine the crater end; and

Group II. Claims 4 to 6, 8, 9, 14 to 16 and 19 to 21, drawn to methods and apparatuses for detecting a crater end of a continuously cast product by using a shear wave sensor, alone or in combination with at least one of a longitudinal wave sensor or a second shear wave sensor to detect variations of an ultrasonic signal and calibrate a physical property value based on a heat condition equation to compute the crater end.

Applicant elects Group I (claims 1 to 3, 7, 10 to 13, 17 and 18).

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the

undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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